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P R E F A C E

The present study seeks to explore in depth the nature and character of political leadership of both Nehru and Patel in the over-all perspective of the Constitution-making in India. It is generally admitted that the Constitution is the institutionalisation and embodiment of the ideals and aspirations of the nation concerned. Needless to mention, these ideals and aspirations of the masses are expressed through the leaders who take active part in guiding, directing and shaping the course of political events at a very critical juncture in nation's socio-political life.

The Constitution which was framed in a semi-agrarian, semi-industrial, monolithic administrative system and perceived unilingual situation of the country had to face a number of challenges ever since its inception. The leaders who took active part in its drafting were aware of the fact that any future Constitution of the country should have the qualities and capabilities to meet the challenges that might arise out of the tasks of modernization, secularization and indigenization of the country.

Both Nehru and Patel had that foresight. That is why, they tried their best to incorporate in the Constitution some basic eternal principles like humanism, secularism and other democratic norms.

The study also purports to offer new insight in the context of political sociology and political thought since it is

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believed that society is a flux of events and a web of many different kinds of relations. It is generally divided into three parts -- the social structure, the polity and the culture. In every society, the problem of social priorities of what utilities are to be maximised, of what social enterprises are to be furthered and other related problems are settled in the political arena, by political criteria -- the relative weight and pressures of different interest groups are balanced against the national and public interest. Decisions are made by endless bargaining which become a basic component of modern political processes with group and individual interests and animating forces.

Broadly conceived, such a subject is concerned with the social basis of power in all institutional sectors of society with patterns of social stratification and their consequences in organised politics. It is with this end in view, this study tries to focus on the organizational analysis of political groups and political leadership, the study of both formal and informal party organisation with its linkage with all other sectors of society.

The present study, while making this analysis of leadership - dynamics, has taken into account all these factors. In substantiating the view points, extensive references have been made to primary sources - speeches, writings and other related documents. Comparison and cross-references have been made as far as possible to make the discussion complete and meaningful.

One of the difficulties faced in the completion of this study is the dearth of primary source-materials on Patel's political thinking. So in most cases, attempts have been made to reach conclusions from the correspondences which he made at different points of time.

While my mind had been haunted by an aspiring idea to do some work, Dr. F. K. Sengupta of the Department of Political Science, University of North Bengal provoked me to undertake a study of the nature of political leadership of Nehru and Patel and Constitution making in India. He also kindly consented to guide my research work. He not only initiated me into this work but also encouraged me all along and extended all kinds of assistance. I am very grateful to him for his valuable time he gave me. Whenever I required I had an easy access to his residence. He never felt or expressed his disgruntleness. I am particularly grateful to Dr. S. N. Roy, Professor of Political Science, University of North Bengal who inspite of his stupendous responsibility had gone through my work and advised me on various points. My gratefulness is also due to the Librarian and the employees of the National Library, Calcutta, Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, New Delhi and more particularly the Central Library, University of North Bengal, for their courteous disposition and for affording necessary facilities in their respective libraries. I wish to express my depth of gratitude to all those who have directly or indirectly helped me in accomplishing the various task connected with the preparation of this work.